

Cheney Reservoir Final Payment
City Council Meeting, Tuesday, October 4 at 9 AM

Remarks for Mayor Carlos Mayans

Today, we are commemorating a significant event in the history of Wichita by celebrating the fact that the City of Wichita has made the 40th, and FINAL, payment to the Federal Bureau of Reclamation for OUR share of the cost of constructing Cheney Reservoir!

Many of us, like myself, are too young, or maybe not even born yet... to remember when this project first came about for Wichita. So, let me share with you a brief history of the project...

- In November 1956, 63% of the voters in Wichita approved the Cheney Reservoir project.
- A bill authorizing the project was submitted to Congress, and on September 1, 1960 at 4:30 A.M. on the last day of the congressional session, the project was approved.
- This was a very fast approval... only four years.
- Similar projects had been before Congress for over 25 years.
- Then-President Dwight D. Eisenhower, one of our favorite Kansans, signed the bill authorizing it on September 14, 1960.
- On January 18, 1961 the city signed a contract with the Bureau of Reclamation establishing a partnership for the construction of the reservoir.
- The contract was for a little over \$18 million with the City agreeing to pay \$7.3 million.
- Today's final payment is a little over \$285-thousand, actually lower than expected due to favorable interest rates.
- The groundbreaking ceremony occurred on May 29th, 1963.
- Construction was completed in May of 1965.
- A dedication ceremony was held on May 29, 1965, and attended by over 5,000 people.

And here we are today. Now, Cheney Reservoir is a vital component of the City's water supply, and currently supplies nearly 70% of the water that we use. When it was originally built, the pump station and pipeline put into service began providing 60 million gallons of water per day to Wichita. It was recently updated and now it provides 80 million gallons of water per day to make up for the growth that we have experienced.

Since the time that the City started using Cheney as a water supply the City has used approximately **315 BILLION gallons of water** from the reservoir. That is enough to completely empty the reservoir about **6 times!!**

In addition to providing the City with its water supply, Cheney Reservoir also serves as a major recreational facility. The State Park has averaged about 500,000 visitors per year which in forty years translates to 20 million visitors since it was established.

We are fortunate that the City's leaders and voters had the vision and foresight to develop this water resource for the future of Wichita. Because that future is now our present. Without their hard work, courage and dedication, the City would not have the benefits of a sustainable water supply that has been vital in meeting the needs of this growing community for the past 40 years. Cheney Reservoir will continue to be a vital component of the City's water supply for many years to come.

And now, the final payment is to be made! Joining us today to celebrate this event, and accept our final payment, are:

- Mr. Mark Trevino, Area Manager AND
- Mr. Leon Esparza, Acting Deputy Area Manager, BOTH are with the Federal Oklahoma-Texas Area Bureau of Reclamation
- AND Mr. Jerry Schmidt, Cheney Park Manager from the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks

We can all agree that this was a great investment. And on behalf of the citizens of Wichita, I am proud to provide the Federal Government with our FINAL PAYMENT in the amount of \$285,095.40!